



299 ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the AEA, but as always open to ALL 299 men past & present.

The aims and ideals of this association are decreed as being:

Promoting and maintaining contact with past and present members of 299 Para Squadron RE.

Promoting and maintaining contact with the members of 131 Independent Commando Squadron RE; and all other Airborne/Commando associations.

Relieving where practicable any hardship or distress suffered by a member, or dependent(s) of a member of this association.

Promoting and encouraging such events that may bring pleasure to all members of this association.

W. Dick, (Seadog), 2/8/2002

DATE: 2nd February 2024 at the Minerva, Hull.

Members present:

Tony Alcock, Michael Beardshaw, Gary Beaumont, Neil Cooper, Chris Duggan, Tony Foster, Derek French, Craig Gadd, Andy Green, Dave Harvey, Antony Irwin, Tom James, Bob Meachen, Kev Millington, Keith Morley, Bud Oldfield, Glenn Ratten, Frank Pougher, Glenn Ratten, Peter Robson, Christopher Shillito, Paul Sims, Nigel Sisson, Andy Thomas, John Thompson, Martin Tindle, Mike Tindle, Antony Weldon, Dave Woollas.

Apologies:

Kev Blacker, Jack Brooks, Gaz Coe, Terry Cunningham, Paul Hairsine, Derek French, Willy Harrison, Carl Henrickson, Syd Hoyle, Roger Holding, Paul Jefferson, Will Mahon, Dave Meeking, Ken Newton, Fred Pougher, Lee Smith, Rhys Swatman.

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** asked all members present, to stand as a former 299 Tp man **Marten Hall** had passed away. All members stood whilst the exhortation was read by Tony Irwin. Then **Chris** asked all to raise their glasses and toast absent friends.

Chris went on to welcome all members present and thanked all for attending the first monthly meeting of the year, and special mention to **Andy Thomas, Andy 'Greendog' Green,** and **Deano** who is home for a while hopefully they will get to more meetings.

Guests:

The Officers and Seniors of 299 Para Sqn
Maj D Morrish
Maj S Ridout
Lt's C Adderley, H Peachment,
2nd Lt's R Handing, J McDowell, G Murphy,
PSAO WO1 A Widle
SSM WO2 C Hepenstall
QMSI WO2 S Richards
SQMS SSgt S Cadman
SSgts J Grundy, N Grey, T James, G Longstaff, A Potts,
L/Cpl L Gurnell

Minutes proposed: Last December minutes as a true record.

Proposed **John Thompson**
Seconded **Mick Beardshaw**

Treasurer report: **Glenn** informed the meeting that the funds were still healthy, even though the ferry and hotel for Arnhem had been booked. Also, the deposit for the AGM in October that is going to be held in Hull has been paid. **Glenn** went on to say that members going to Arnhem had paid their £100.00 deposits and that the remaining balance had to be paid by June.

Correspondence: Our acting Secretary and Vice Chairman **Craig Gadd** went on to inform the members present on the details on the booking procedure for the AGM and Gala Dinner at the Village Hotel-Hull, on the 12th October 2024.

Members and guests of the Airborne Engineers Association can now book accommodation for AGM and Gala Dinner, with banqueting team at the above hotel. Please ask for **Hayley Cowles** Meeting & Events Sales Manager, her direct line is 01482560905 to make your booking for accommodation only and if required an evening meal, if guests are staying on the Friday evening. If there is enough take up on this, (min 50 pers) then the hotel will put on a hot buffet/carvery/curry/chilli type meal which will be in a private room for members, at an additional cost of £19.95. Otherwise, members can just have a meal in the bar and grill, however, this only has capacity to cater for 80 pers, obviously there will be other guests staying in the hotel, so this may be quite busy if all arrive at once.

Once members have booked accommodation with the hotel, you then need to pay for and book your meal for the Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening through 299 Association. Unfortunately, the hotel cannot organise this hence why you will have to make two separate

payments. One for the hotel accommodation and meal on the Friday evening if required and one to 299 Association for the gala dinner on the Saturday evening, I did try to make it simple, but the hotel cannot take payment for the gala dinner. **Craig** did try!

The dinner will cost £40.00 per person payable to 299 Association. Please put your name and AGM in the reference and copy in myself, all details will be on the proforma.

Please see the link to the hotel and its facilities. Please do not try and book through the web page as you will not get the negotiated rate that **Craig** has secured.

<https://www.village-hotels.co.uk/hull>

NB, if we don't know you're coming, you won't get a seat at the table or get fed

Craig also informed the members that the Armed Forces Veterans Card is now live.

An HM Armed Forces Veteran Card is a way to prove that you served in the UK armed forces. The card can make it quicker and easier to apply for support as a veteran. What's more It's free to apply.

You can currently only apply for a Veteran Card if you have a UK address. Veterans who do not have a UK address will be able to apply later this year.

<https://www.gov.uk/veteran-card>

Chairman's Comments:

Captain Marten Hall passed away in January, we knew he was fighting Leukaemia, but we thought he was beating it, but obviously not. Marten wasn't with 299 long and joined the Yorkshire Regiment and gained a commission. If anyone knows his mates or family and can you find out when the funeral is let me know and few of us will hopefully pop down to pay our respects. I believe his present unit will fulfil any military duties if the family wishes it. RIP Marten.

Airborne Engineers Gala Dinner

Will be held at the Village Hotel Saturday 12th October 2024. Try to get there as **Craig Gadd** **John Thompson** and **Nige Sisson** will put a lot of work in to make it a success. The Airborne Engineers will attend from all over the country with OC and RSM of 23 Engineer Regiment as guests.

Arnhem is from the Thursday 19th October 2024 until the Monday 23rd September 2024 the coach, hotel and the ferry is now booked. Everyone should have paid £100 deposit. If you are going to Arnhem, please text Chris your name as it appears on your passport. This is for P&O Ferries

The chairman asked the OC **Maj D Morrish** if he could update the members on Sqn news.

(Just waiting for Frank to come back to me)

Two guys were missing of the attendance list at the December meeting **Tony Irwin** and **Terry Walker** the chairman apologised to them.

Any other business.

John Thompson Mentioned that there was a Normandy trip being run by another unit in May and asked if anyone interested, please get in touch with him.

.....

We still have rugby shirts, Association plaques and association ties for sale see the committee.

Please use the 299 Facebook and web page for any news, or stuff you have done or old memories or photos you have tucked away in your attic, this is your Association so please use it.

Is everyone getting my texts, if not please let me know.

Simbo's Bus stop

Winner: **Chris Shillito (jammy sod)**

Next meeting 1st March

Dates for your diary

Arnhem Pilgrimage 2024 Dates : Thursday 19th September 2024 - Monday 23rd September 2024. Hotel, Coach, and Ferry are now booked. Price £420. Save up with Glenn.

Web site address: www.299association.co.uk

CONTACTS:

Chairman: Chris Shillito, chrisshillito299@outlook.com Tel: 01482 806690,
Mob: 07877277288.

Vice Chairman & Acting Secretary: Craig Gadd, craig.gadd@hotmail.com
Mob: 07771880733

Treasurer: Glenn Ratten, glennratten@icloud.com Mob: 07795248328.

Web Master: Dave Hines, davehines2@davehines2.karoo.co.uk Tel: 01482 860981,
Mob: 07821698522.

Archivist: Tony Irwin, bigtirwin@hotmail.com Tel; 01482 793847, Mb: 07928956592.

WELFARE:

Hull 4 Heroes Supporting those that Served <https://hull4heroes.org.uk> 01482 534483.

Help for Heroes <https://www.helpforheroes.org.uk>

Veterans Welfare Service <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/veterans-welfare-service>

SSAFA <https://www.ssafa.org.uk>

Royal British Legion <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk>